

"Other Foreign Work.—In addition to this larger organized work, there are Sunday-schools in New Orleans and other cities conducted by individual congregations among the Chinese, Japanese, Hungarians, Syrians, etc. These people must be reached for their own sake, for our country's sake and for the world's sake. The greater number there are who come the more there are to return, and through them we have an unparalleled opportunity to reach with the Gospel the countries from which they come. These missions among the foreign-speaking peoples in our country represent a distinct advance in our Home Mission work and indicate a desire on the part of our church to have a share in winning the lost for Christ. It is a work most important and far-reaching in its results."

THE ANNUAL STATISTICS OF OUR CHURCH.

The Presbyterian Committee of Publication is certainly to be commended for their punctuality in issuing the Minutes of the Assembly. A copy of the Minutes reached us in three weeks after the Assembly adjourned. It is well and neatly printed. We trust that every officer in our Church will secure a copy from the committee at Richmond and study it. (Price — cents.)

Of course, we turn first to the "Comparative Summary." It is the most interesting page of the book.

How many members were added on examination during the last church year? Answer, 15,998. In previous years the number added has been 14,153, 14,367, 13,476, 12,410. We think this year's additions are larger than in any previous year in our Church's history. For this let the Lord be thanked.

Another precious feature appears. The net increase in membership is the largest in the history of our Church. It is 10,073. In the year 1907 the increase was 9,508; in previous years it has been in the neighborhood of seven or eight thousand per annum.

The total number of members is 279,803, nearly two hundred and eighty thousand.

The year 1874 is the earliest one in which the statistics included both the Synod of Kentucky and the Synod of Missouri. The interval is thirty-five years—one generation. In this interval the number of Church members has much more than doubled; it has increased from 106,000 to about 280,000; the growth is more than a hundred and fifty per cent. With this figure let us compare the growth in other directions.

Candidates for the ministry in 1874 were 199; in 1878 only 145. Now they number 431. The increase from 1874 is 115 per cent; from 1878, it is nearly two hundred per cent.

The number of ministers has increased from 972 to 1660, only seventy per cent. This increase is only half as great as that of the membership.

But the number of churches has almost doubled—from 1,764 to 3,265.

Some people say that infant baptism is being neglected at the present day. We apprehend that this is true. Yet the conditions might be worse. Infant baptisms have increased from 4,249 to 5,880—about forty per cent.

In this connection there is an interesting fact: The number of infant baptisms annually about fifteen

years ago was about five thousand a year. This year the number of admissions to communion was 15,998. From this deduct the number of adult baptisms—6,495—and we have the number of persons admitted to communion this year on the basis of their baptism in infancy. This number is 9,503, nearly twice as many as the number of infant baptisms fifteen years ago. Perhaps in those days some of the baptisms were not reported. Possibly this year some of the infant baptisms are unreported.

THE BENEVOLENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

Of the Year Just Closed.

We are still looking over the statistical report of the General Assembly. Let us recall the fact that the increase in membership has been about 150 per cent.

The growth in contributions has been greater. To the Assembly's Home Missions, from \$56,000 to \$116,000—a hundred per cent; to Ministerial Relief, from \$10,000 to \$80,000; to Foreign Missions, from \$29,000 to \$450,000—about four hundred per cent; to Pastors' Salaries, from half a million to \$1,136,000.

The total of contributions in 1874 was \$1,111,461 in paper money; in 1882 it was, in gold, \$1,130,133. This year it is in gold—\$3,608,000.

Membership has increased a hundred and fifty per cent; wealth has increased two or three hundred per cent; the total of contributions has not kept pace therewith.

If it be true, as reported, that the Board of Trustees of Central University pledged itself "to the perpetuation of the traditions, relations and fundamental principles of the Presbyterian Church," and declared its purpose to conduct the institution "in a relation of complete and vital sympathy with the Presbyterian Church," it is pertinent to ask whether, regardless of all acts or deliverances of Synod or Assembly, it is dealing squarely with the Carnegie Foundation? Is it right to hold on to the Church and to seek to perpetuate her traditions and principles and at the same time to receive money from a fund the fundamental principle of which is that it will not aid any institution which is denominational in its government and control? It would seem to us that the administrators of the Fund would pause before rendering aid to any institution which has such a "string" to its declaration of undenominationalism.

It seemed strange to the Christians at Philippi that Paul and Silas, who had been providentially directed to the place, should be driven from it when their work had only begun. But the work of the Church has ever advanced through difficulties and persecutions and has made most progress when most opposed.

The indifference which, in both professing Christian and unbeliever, is so common, must grow out of the prevailing lack of deep conviction of sin. The sense of sin is almost entirely wanting, and the conviction hardly amounts to more than a mental state, a simple belief that we are sinners in God's sight, with no compunction accompanying it and no feeling so profound and inwrought that we abhor the sin and turn from it with grief and hatred.